Year 9 - Term 1- The Age of Revolutions

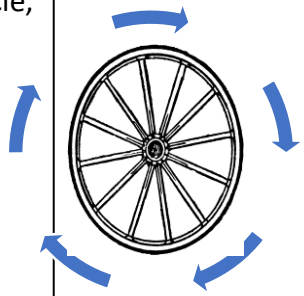
1. Keywords

Absolutism	Power of the Monarch shared with nobody else
Constitution	A document which states the rules of a country
The Enlightenment	European intellectual movement of the late 17th and 18th centuries emphasizing reason and individualism rather than tradition. It was heavily influenced by 17th-century philosophers such as Descartes
Industrialisation	The process of mechanization and industry growing quickly
Industrial Revolution	The process of turning from a rural, farming based economy, to an urban factory based one, historians disagree slightly on when this was approx. 1750-1850
Declaration of Independence	Declared Independence for 13 colonies in the USA away from British colonial rule in 1776
Liberté, égalité, fraternité	Liberty (freedom), Equality and Brotherhood – French motto from the Revolution
Parliamentary Select Committee	A group of MP's with a focus on a specific task. E,g. To look into the conditions in factories for child workers.
Reforms	Changing something, hopefully for the better
Reformer	A person doing the reforming

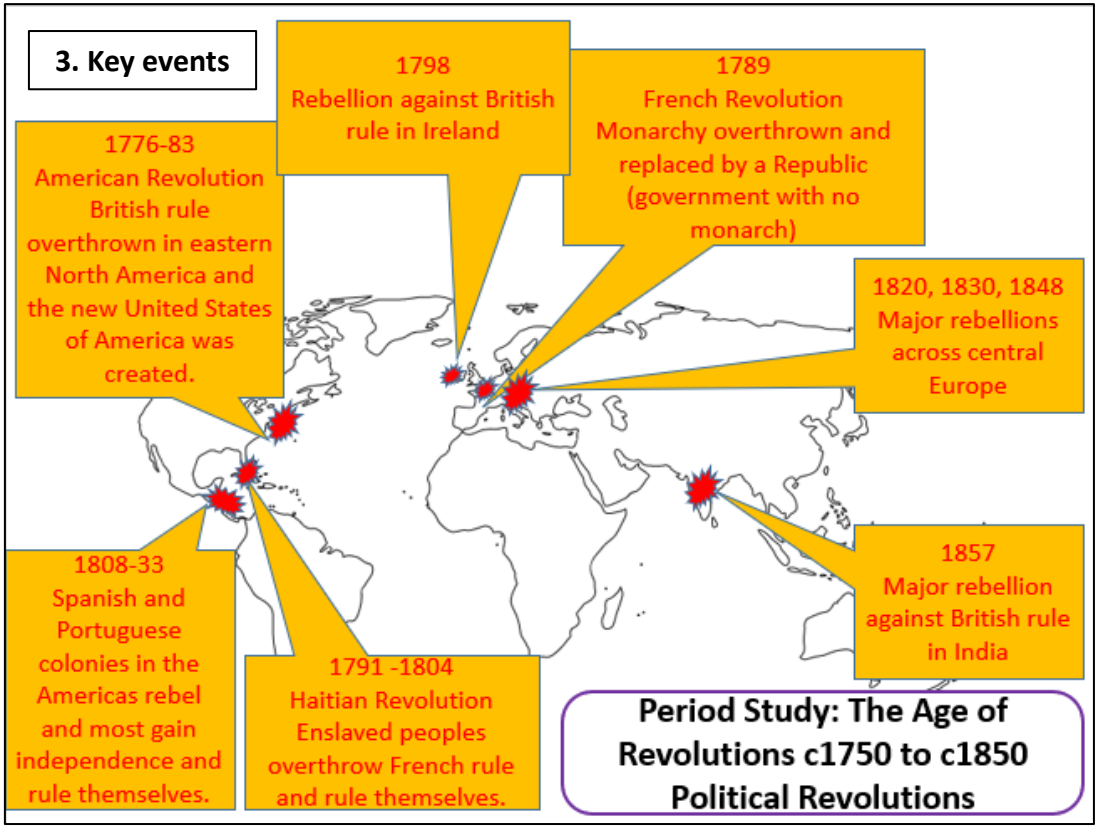
2. What is a revolution in History?

Technically, a revolution means something turning a full circle, like a wheel
In History, we also use the term Revolution to describe a major change

Most commonly, we look at political revolutions where one group rebels against the people ruling them and replaces them with a different government
But we can also have revolutions in areas like science and technology



3. Key events



4. Command words

Command Word	What the examiner wants you to do	Connectives to use
Describe	Say what happened during an event using detail.	One key feature was… This is because… This meant that
Explain	To give a reason and justify it using details and information.	Because… This means that… This led to…
Write an account	You need to explain how events led to an outcome. This means you need to explain how one event led to another.	Therefore… Due to… Consequently … One consequence of this was… This caused… This led to… This resulted in… This meant that

5. Timeline of Revolutions

1750

1776-1783
American colonies fighting against Britain and winning independence

1791-1804
Haitian Revolution - Insurrection by self liberated slaves against French colonial rule

1787-1799
French Revolution
A period of radical political change in France an end to absolute monarch

1798
Rebellion against British rule in Ireland

1800

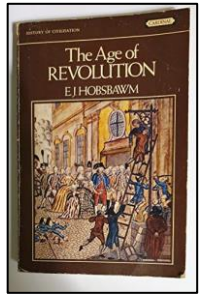
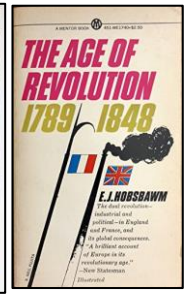
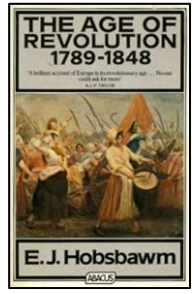
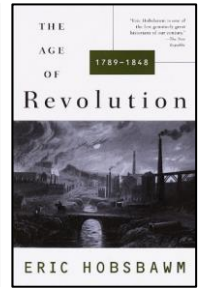
1803-33
Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the Americas rebel and most gain independence and rule themselves

1820, 1830 and 1848
Major rebellions across central Europe

1860

1857
Major rebellion against British rule in India

6. Other revolutions and first Historian

There were other revolutions as well as the political revolutions
Across the world there was the Enlightenment - an intellectual revolution which saw new ideas in science, technology, art, literature, politics and many other areas
In Britain we saw the arrival of the Industrial Revolution. This was a massive change. By c1850 most people lived in towns and cities rather than the countryside and most worked in industry and factories and not in farming.

The first historian to write about the Age of Revolutions was Eric Hobsbawm in 1962.
Hobsbawm looked at this period and he was struck by the many massive changes which took place and so he called it the Age of Revolutions